

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 23-32 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 5, 7-21, 24, 31 and 32 are allowed.

In response to the Amendment filed May 25, 2004, the Examiner repeated the previous claim rejections.

Thus, claims 1-4, 6, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by previously-cited Yamakita et al. (US 6,285,780, hereafter "Yamakita"). Claims 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Yamakita in view of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art AAPA).

By the present Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1-8, 17, 23 and 24 to include the limitations common to claims 31 and 32. In the Office Action dated August 26, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claims 31 and 32 include allowable subject matter. Thus, claims 1-8, 17, 23 and 24 should be in form for allowance.

Also, claims 25-30 are allowable, at least because of their dependence from claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 23, respectively.

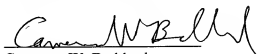
Claims 31 and 32 are cancelled by the present Amendment.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 (c)
U. S. Application No. 09/281,969

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Cameron W. Beddard
Registration No. 46,545

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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